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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Hydroelectric Power Plant at Slapy

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Slapy power plant and dam are located on the Vltava River, about 25 miles upstream (south) of Prague on the right shore facing downstream.
2. The plant was being erected [REDACTED] (mid-1951) and, in my opinion, it will come into operation in late 1954. The designed output (installed) is 200,000 KW, which is the largest of the Vltava River power plants to be erected under the Czechoslovakia ten-year program ending in 1960. In this program there will be six plants representing a capacity of 600,000 KW, whereas in the Vah river program the total capacity will be 800,000 KW.
3. In general, the engineers and the leader of the operations are not contented with the progress of the construction. This will very seriously affect the entire Czech industrialization program, which is already limited by the scarcity of power.
4. In the summer of 1951, 1500 workmen were on the site, an insufficient number for maintaining the scheduled program. [REDACTED] this number with Hungarian practice where 4000 workmen would be needed. The working conditions are difficult and time-wasting since the vertical level differences between working places are more than 600 to 700 feet. Further, the barracks are only on the one bank of the river with no bridge facilities to transport the personnel.
5. The plant employed dredgers and excavators, one of which was of Soviet design with a capacity for 10 metric tons.
6. There was a central cement mixing station in operation, a practice which is not usual in Czechoslovakia or Hungary.
7. Because the river is encircled by hills an underground tunnel was necessary for diverting the flow of water.

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